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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4820  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0760  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1072  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 0051  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 0142  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0400  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0751

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 000669

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EUN](#) [BM](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: SWEDISH MFA: EU TESTING THE WATERS WITH BURMA

Classified By: PolCouns Marc Koehler for reasons 1.4 (B) & (D).

(C) Swedish MFA Director General for Asia Klas Molin discussed Burma with Poloffs during an October 22 meeting on North Korea (septel). His main points were:

--On October 28, the EU will discuss the way forward with Burma at the EU's Working Group on Asia (COASI). Sweden holds the rotating EU Presidency, so Molin will chair the meeting.

--The EU "measures" its own policy against U.S. policy and wants to coordinate positions and actions with the U.S.  
"Australia feels the same way."

--Discussion on the way forward with Burma has been heated among EU Member States. For now, all agree to tread cautiously and continue to "test the waters for opportunities." The EU is working on a list of ways to "probe" the regime over the next few months, while remaining firm on human rights. A preliminary probe might be a non-political meeting at a large multilateral event.

--The Burmese regime has a "warped world view" and is "seeking legitimacy" for its elections. Usually, the outside world is not important to the regime; the new willingness to engage with the outside world might be the result of Chinese pressure.

--If Aung San Suu Kyi wants to play a role, the West should enable her, but must be "cautious" because she has her own interests.

--The Spanish EU Presidency will be more in favor of engagement with Burma than the Swedish Presidency has been.  
BARZUN